



## **Economic Impact Analysis Virginia Department of Planning and Budget**

---

### **18 VAC 90-30 – Regulations Governing the Licensure of Nurse Practitioners Department of Health Professions June 1, 2004**

---

The Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) has analyzed the economic impact of this proposed regulation in accordance with Section 2.2-4007.G of the Administrative Process Act and Executive Order Number 21 (02). Section 2.2-4007.G requires that such economic impact analyses include, but need not be limited to, the projected number of businesses or other entities to whom the regulation would apply, the identity of any localities and types of businesses or other entities particularly affected, the projected number of persons and employment positions to be affected, the projected costs to affected businesses or entities to implement or comply with the regulation, and the impact on the use and value of private property. The analysis presented below represents DPB's best estimate of these economic impacts.

### **Summary of the Proposed Regulation**

The Boards of Medicine and Nursing (boards) propose to: 1) update the names of accrediting bodies, 2) clarify that approved programs refer to education programs that offer doctoral degrees as well as those that offer master's degrees, 3) clarify that the boards will grant field licensure only if the applicant's education and certification is consistent with that field, 4) clarify that a graduate degree is required for licensure, 5) eliminate six fields of licensure, and 6) introduce language concerning licensure by endorsement.

### **Estimated Economic Impact**

One requirement for nurse practitioner licensure is that applicants must have obtained a graduate degree in nursing from a program designed to prepare nurse practitioners that is an "approved program." The current regulations define an "approved program" as a nurse practitioner program that is either accredited by one or more listed associations, "or is offered by a school of nursing or jointly offered by a school of medicine and a school of nursing which

grant a master's degree in nursing and which hold a national accreditation acceptable to the board." The boards propose to amend the definition for "approved program" in the following ways: 1) remove "American Association of Colleges of Nursing" from the list of accrediting associations and replace it with "Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education," 2) amend "National League for Nursing" to become "National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission" in the list of accrediting associations, and 3) in the language describing an "approved program" as one which "is offered by a school of nursing or jointly offered by a school of medicine and a school of nursing which grant a master's degree in nursing ...," replace the word "master's" with the word "graduate."

The Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education is the part of the American Association of Colleges of Nursing that accredits educational programs. The proposal to replace the latter with the former is only for clarity and will have no economic impact beyond saving a potential small amount of time associated with license applicants inquiring about the approval of specific programs. Amending "National League for Nursing" to become "National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission" will have no economic impact.

The current language describing an "approved program" as one that "is offered by a school of nursing or jointly offered by a school of medicine and a school of nursing which grant a master's degree in nursing ..." read literally excludes programs which grant a doctorate in nursing, but not a master's degree in nursing. In practice the boards have treated programs that grant a doctorate in nursing, but not a master's degree in nursing, as approved. The proposal to replace the word "master's" with the word "graduate" makes that intent clear.

The boards propose to add language to the regulations clarifying that field licensure will only be granted if the applicant's education and certification is consistent with that field. According to the Department of Health Professions (department), this represents no change in policy or practice. The current language states that an applicant must complete an approved educational program. The boards have received applications from nurse practitioners who have completed nurse practitioner education in a field that is not consistent with the field for which they are applying for licensure. The new clarifying language may potentially save some such applicants the time and fee (\$85) associated with applying for licensure in a field that is not consistent with their education.

The boards propose to eliminate six categories of licensure from the regulations: 1) family planning nurse practitioner, 2) obstetric/gynecological nurse practitioner, 3) emergency nurse practitioner, 4) school nurse practitioner, 5) medical nurse practitioner, and 6) maternal child health nurse practitioner. There is no longer any professional certification, a requirement for licensure, available in any of these six categories.<sup>1</sup> According to the department, licensees who hold a license in a category being eliminated will be able to retain their license or, if qualified by certification, be reissued a license in one of the remaining categories. The department also states that there is no area of practice where a nurse practitioner can currently work that will become unavailable due to the elimination of categories. Thus, the proposal to eliminate six categories of licensure from the regulations will not have a significant impact.

Section § 54.1-2957 of the Code of Virginia states that “The Boards may issue a license by endorsement to an applicant to practice as a nurse practitioner if the applicant has been licensed as a nurse practitioner under the laws of another state and, in the opinion of the Boards, the applicant meets the qualifications for licensure required of nurse practitioners in this Commonwealth.” The boards propose to add a section to these regulations that essentially reiterate the meaning of the Code. This new language will have no effect.

## **Businesses and Entities Affected**

The proposed regulations affect the 4,848 individuals licensed as a nurse practitioner, individuals interested in nurse practitioner licensure, and physicians and patients who interact with nurse practitioners.

## **Localities Particularly Affected**

The proposed regulations affect all Virginia localities.

## **Projected Impact on Employment**

The proposed amendments will not significantly affect employment levels.

## **Effects on the Use and Value of Private Property**

The proposed amendments will not have a large impact on the use and value of private property.

---

<sup>1</sup> Source: Department of Health Professions